



SARCnews Launched

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the SARCnews. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide local educational agency (LEA) personnel and others who prepare School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) with timely and helpful information about SARC requirements.

School Accountability Report Cards Need to be Disseminated Effectively

State law generally encourages schools to make a concerted effort to notify parents of the purpose of the SARCs. Specifically, LEAs are required to notify all parents about the availability of the SARC and to provide parents with instructions about how the SARC can be obtained both through the Internet (if feasible) and on paper (by request). LEAs with access to the Internet are required to make SARCs available through that medium. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act also requires LEAs to make school accountability information widely available through such means as posting it on the Internet, distributing it to the media, and distributing it through public agencies.

When 15 percent or more of a school's enrolled students speak a single primary language other than English, state law requires that all notices, reports, statements, or records sent by the school or district to the parent or guardian of these students must, in addition to being written in English, be written in the appropriate primary language. In addition, federal law requires that schools and districts communicate effectively with all parents and guardians, regardless of the percent of students who speak a language other than English. *Please note that these provisions are applicable to the preparation and dissemination of SARCs.*

New Teacher-Related Items Added to the SARC for 2004-05 School Year

In the "Teacher and Staff Information" section of the SARC template for publication in the 2004-05 school year, a new table has been added titled "Core Academic Courses Not Taught by NCLB Compliant Teachers." This table is to report the percent of classes in core content areas not taught by NCLB compliant teachers. For a school, the data reported are the percent of a school's classes in core content areas not taught by NCLB compliant teachers.

For a district, the data reported are the percent of all classes in core content areas not taught by NCLB compliant teachers in all schools in the district, in high-poverty schools in the district, and in low-poverty schools in the district. These data, which are required by NCLB, will be provided by the California Department of Education (CDE) when the template with data becomes available for downloading.

The existing "Teacher Credentials" table has been modified in several respects. The number of "Teachers with Full Credential" is now to be reported without regard to whether the teacher is teaching in his or her subject area. The number of "Teachers in Alternative Routes to Certification" (district and university internships) is now to be reported separately from "Pre-Internship" teachers and "Teachers with Emergency Permits." These data, which are required by state law, will be provided by the CDE when the template with data becomes available for downloading (with the exception of the category "Teachers Teaching Outside Subject Area" for which the data are to be provided by the LEA).

An additional new table, titled "Teacher Education Level," has been added in the "Teacher and Staff Information" section of the template. This table is to report at both the school and district level the percent of teachers by various levels of teacher education. These data, which are required by NCLB, will be provided by the CDE when the template with data becomes available for downloading.

Important SARC Resources Available on the CDE Web Site

For additional information about SARC requirements, please visit the [SARC home page](#) on the CDE Web site. This page contains links to a variety of helpful resource items, many of which have been recently updated. *Please note that the SARC template with data for publication in the 2004-05 school year is expected to be available for downloading by the end of October 2004.*

Late Breaking News

A summary of significant changes in the School Accountability Report Card template and data element definitions from 2002-03 to 2003-04 is now available on the [SARC Web site](#) by selecting [Summary of Changes](#) from the [SARC Templates](#) Web page.

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